UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO.

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, et al.,

Debtors.¹

PROMESA Title III

No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

(Jointly Administered)

Re: ECF No. 13512-1

DEBTORS' NINETEENTH OMNIBUS MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE AUTOMATIC STAY

To the Honorable United States District Court Judge Laura Taylor Swain:

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the "Commonwealth"), the Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA"), the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA"), the Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS"), the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") and the Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority ("PBA" and together with the Commonwealth, COFINA, HTA, ERS, and PREPA, the "Debtors"), as Title III debtors, by and through the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (the "Oversight Board"), as the Debtors' representative

The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283- LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority ("PBA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5523-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

pursuant to section 315(b) of the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act* ("PROMESA"),² respectfully submits this motion (the "Motion"), pursuant to sections 362(d)(1) and 105(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), made applicable to these cases by PROMESA section 301(a), and in accordance with Paragraph III.Q of the Case Management Procedures (as defined below), for entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the "Proposed Order"), approving the modifications to the automatic stay set forth in Bankruptcy Code sections 362(a) and 922(a) (the "Title III Stay") (i) for the parties and actions set forth in **Exhibit 1** to the Proposed Order, retroactive to the dates specified therein, and (ii) to the extent necessary, for the party and action as set forth in **Exhibit 2** to the Proposed Order, retroactive to the date of this Motion. In support of this Motion, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 1. The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the "Court") has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to PROMESA section 306(a).
 - 2. Venue is proper pursuant to PROMESA section 307(a).
- 3. The statutory predicate for the relief sought herein is Bankruptcy Code sections 362(d)(1) and 105(a), made applicable to these Title III cases by PROMESA section 301(a).

Background

4. On June 2, 2017, the Court entered an order approving certain notice, case management, and administrative procedures for the Title III cases [ECF No. 249] (as amended, the "Case Management Procedures"), which was subsequently amended on June 6, 2017 to make certain non-substantive clarifications and amendments [ECF No. 262].

² PROMESA is codified at 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101-2241.

- 5. On August 17, 2017, the Court entered an order further amending the Case Management Procedures to, among other things, implement a protocol (the "Lift Stay Protocol") for filing motions for relief from Title III Stay [ECF No. 1065]. Under the Lift Stay Protocol, a movant is required to (a) send notice (a "Lift Stay Notice") to counsel to the Oversight Board and AAFAF to advise them of the movant's intent to seek relief from the Title III Stay at least fifteen (15) business days prior to filing a motion seeking such relief (the "Lift Stay Notice Period") and (b) meet and confer with the Debtors during the Lift Stay Notice Period.
- 6. On September 13, 2017, the Debtors filed a motion to amend the Case Management Procedures [ECF No. 1299] to allow the Debtors (a) to enter into stipulations modifying or lifting the Title III Stay under Paragraph III.Q of the Case Management Procedures without further order of the Court and (b) in their discretion, to modify or lift the Title III Stay with respect to any prepetition ordinary course civil action against a Debtor without the filing of a Lift Stay Notice and further order of the Court.
- 7. On October 24, 2017, the Court approved the Third Amended Notice, Case Management and Administrative Procedures [ECF No. 1512-1], which implemented the Debtors' requested changes to the Lift Stay Protocol and requires the Debtors to file an omnibus lift stay motion every 60 days, identifying each modification to the Title III Stay agreed to by the Debtors during the relevant period and seeking Court approval of such modifications retroactive to the relevant modification date.
- 8. The Court entered the following orders approving stipulations modifying the Title III Stay retroactive to the dates specified therein:
 - First Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 2191], dated December 28, 2017.

- Second Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 2565], dated February 21, 2018.
- Third Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 2945], dated April 23, 2018.
- Order Supplementing Third Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 2988], dated May 1, 2018.
- Fourth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 3326], dated June 20, 2018.
- Fifth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 3795], dated August 21, 2018.
- Order Supplementing Fifth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 3940], dated September 17, 2018.
- Sixth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 4201], dated November 9, 2018.
- Seventh Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 4550], dated December 21, 2018.
- Eighth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 5146], dated February 15, 2019.
- Ninth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 6448], dated April 22, 2019.
- Tenth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 7502], dated June 18, 2019.
- Eleventh Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 8499], dated August 19, 2019.
- Twelfth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 8877], dated October 16, 2019.
- Thirteenth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 9595], dated December 16, 2019.
- Fourteenth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 10957], dated February 13, 2020.
- Fifteenth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 12838], dated April 16, 2020.

- Sixteenth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No. 13404], dated June 11, 2020.
- Seventeenth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay [ECF No.14010], dated August 11, 2020.
- Eighteenth Omnibus Order Granting Relief from Automatic Stay [ECF No. 14496], dated October 7, 2020.

Relief Requested

- 9. By this Motion, the Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the form of the Proposed Order, (i) approving the modifications to the Title III Stay for the parties and actions set forth in Exhibit 1 to the Proposed Order, retroactive to the dates specified therein and (ii) to the extent necessary, approving the modification to the Title III Stay for the party and action as set forth in Exhibit 2, retroactive to the date of this Motion.
- 10. As required by Paragraph III.Q of the Case Management Procedures, Exhibit 1 to the Proposed Order include a brief description of the modification of the Title III Stay and case information (including case number and court), as applicable, for each party.
- 11. This Motion seeks to approve modifications to the Title III Stay agreed to by the Debtors for the period from September 30, 2020 through November 24, 2020 (the date of this Motion). Further, the Motion seeks to approve a modification to the Title III Stay agreed to by PBA through this Motion, and without need for a stipulation in accordance with Paragraph III.Q of the Case Management Procedures as detailed in Exhibit 2 to the Proposed Order.

Basis for Relief

12. Bankruptcy Code section 362(a), made applicable to Title III cases pursuant to PROMESA section 301(a), provides, in relevant part, that the commencement of a Title III case operates as a stay enjoining all persons and entities from, among other things: (i) commencing or continuing any action or proceeding against a debtor that was or could have been brought against

the debtor before the commencement of the debtor's Title III case, (ii) taking any action to obtain possession or control over property of the debtor, and (iii) attempting to collect, assess, or recover on a prepetition claim. See 11 U.S.C. § 362(a). In Title III cases, in addition to the automatic stay under section 362(a), Bankruptcy Code section 922(a) provides an additional stay of "any judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against an officer or inhabitant of the municipality that seeks to enforce a claim against the municipal debtor." 11 U.S.C. § 922(a).

- 13. Bankruptcy Code section 362(d)(1) provides that a court may grant relief from the automatic stay "for cause." See 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1). To determine whether "cause" exists to grant relief from the automatic stay, courts generally examine numerous different factors, including those set forth in Sonnax Indus., Inc. v. TriComponent Prods. Corp. (In re Sonnax Indus., Inc.), 907 F.2d 1280 (2d Cir. 1990). See Brigade Leveraged Capital Structures Fund Ltd. v. García-Padilla, 217 F. Supp. 3d 508, 518 (D.P.R. 2016) ("To help guide their analysis of whether to enforce or vacate the stay, some courts, including those in this district, have relied upon a laundry list of assorted factors." (citing Sonnax, 907 F.2d at 1286; C & A, S.E. v. P.R. Solid Waste Mgmt. Auth., 369 B.R. 87, 94–5 (D.P.R. 2007))).
- 14. Additionally, under Bankruptcy Code section 105(a), made applicable to the Title III cases by PROMESA section 301(a), the Court "may issue any order, process or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title." 11 U.S.C. § 105(a).
- 15. Since implementing the Lift Stay Protocol on August 17, 2017, the Debtors have received over 330 Lift Stay Notices seeking relief from the Title III Stay to prosecute various prepetition actions. The Debtors and their advisors, in consultation with the Oversight Board, carefully reviewed and analyzed each of the Lift Stay Notices and determined that it was

appropriate to modify the Title III Stay for the parties and actions listed in Exhibits 1 and 2 to the Proposed Order, retroactive to the dates specified therein.

- 16. The action listed in Exhibit 2 to the Proposed Order involve a condemnation proceeding filed by PBA. As explained more fully in Exhibit 2 of the Proposed Order, the proposed modification of the Title III Stay would allow amounts consigned to the Commonwealth court to be transferred to another action. Therefore, PBA requests that this Court modify the Title III Stay as described in Exhibit 2.
- 17. The Debtors believe that modifying the Title III Stay for these matters will alleviate the strain on the Title III cases and this Court, will further interests of judicial economy, and maximize the Debtors' resources for the benefit of all parties in interest by avoiding costly claim litigation in this Court on matters that are already well underway in other fora. Importantly, the proposed consensual stay modifications will only allow the subject case to proceed to liquidation of any claim amount and will not permit any enforcement or collection of any claim arising prior to the respective Debtors' petition dates. Also, the Debtors reserve all rights, defenses, and protections with respect to any matters pending or that may arise in the Title III Cases, including the treatment of any claim arising from the subject actions under a plan of adjustment or otherwise in the Title III Cases.
- 18. Accordingly, the Debtors request that the Court enter an order retroactively approving the modifications of the Title III Stay set forth on Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 to the Proposed Order.

Notice

19. The Debtors have provided notice of this Motion in accordance with the Case Management Procedures to the following parties: (a) the Office of the United States Trustee for

the District of Puerto Rico; (b) the indenture trustees and/or agents, as applicable, for the Debtors' bonds; (c) counsel to the statutory committees appointed in these Title III cases; (d) the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico; (e) the Puerto Rico Department of Justice; (f) the Other Interested Parties; (g) all parties filing a notice of appearance in these Title III cases; and (h) the parties set forth in Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 to the Proposed Order. A copy of the Motion is also available on the Debtors' website case at https://cases.primeclerk.com/puertorico/.

20. The Debtors submit that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

No Prior Motion

21. The Debtors have not made any prior motion for the relief sought in this Motion to this or any other court.

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The "Other Interested Parties" include the following: (i) counsel to certain of the insurers and trustees of the bonds issued or guaranteed by the Debtors; and (ii) counsel to certain ad hoc groups of holders of bonds issued or guaranteed by the Debtors.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request entry of the Proposed Order in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, retroactively approving the modifications of the Title III Stay set forth on Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 to the Proposed Order, and granting such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.

Dated: November 24, 2020 San Juan, Puerto Rico Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ehud Barak

Martin J. Bienenstock (admitted *pro hac vice*) Brian S. Rosen (admitted *pro hac vice*) Paul V. Possinger (admitted *pro hac vice*) Ehud Barak (admitted *pro hac vice*)

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Co-Attorneys for the Financial Oversight and Management Board as Representative for the Debtors

Exhibit A

Proposed Order

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:	PROMESA Title III No. 17 BK 3283-LTS	
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,		
as representative of	(Jointly Administered)	
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, et al.,	Re: ECF No	
Debtors. ¹		

NINETEENTH OMNIBUS ORDER GRANTING RELIEF FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY

Upon the *Debtors' Nineteenth Omnibus Motion for Approval of Modifications to the Automatic Stay* (Docket Entry No. _____ in Case No. 17-3283, the "Motion");² and the Court having found it has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to PROMESA section 306; and it appearing that venue in this district is proper pursuant to PROMESA section 307; and the Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and the Court having found that the Debtors provided adequate and appropriate notice of the Motion under the circumstances and that no other or further notice is required; and the Court having reviewed the Motion; and the Court having determined

The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283- LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority ("PBA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5523-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Motion.

that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and any objections to the relief requested herein having been withdrawn or overruled on the merits; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is **HEREBY**ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is granted as set forth herein.
- 2. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 362(d)(1) and 105(a), made applicable to the Title III cases by PROMESA section 301(a), the Title III Stay is modified as set forth in the attached Exhibit 1 for matters subject to prior stipulations among or between the applicable Debtor and counterparty(ies), retroactive to the dates specified therein.
- 3. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 362(d)(1) and 105(a), the Title III Stay is modified as set forth in the attached Exhibit 2 as agreed to by PBA and Francisca Pláceres Reyes, retroactive to November 24, 2020 (the date of the Motion).
- 4. All rights, defenses, and protections of each of the Debtors with respect to any matters pending or that may arise in their respective Title III Cases, including the treatment of any claim arising from the matters set forth on Exhibit 1 and 2 hereof under a plan of adjustment or otherwise in the Title III Case are hereby reserved. Nothing in this Order or the Debtors' consent to stay modification as set forth in the Motion shall be deemed to be, or construed as, (a) an admission by any party of any liability, wrongdoing, act, or matter or that any claim or defense has or lacks merit; (b) a waiver of the Debtors' rights to dispute, contest, setoff, or recoup any claim, including any claims asserted in the subject actions, or assert any related rights, claims, or defenses and all such rights are reserved; or (c) an approval or assumption of any agreement or contract between the parties under Bankruptcy Code section 365.

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5. Notwithstanding any applicability of any Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure, the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

6. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters (a) arising from or related to the implementation, enforcement, or interpretation of this Order and (b) concerning the execution or enforcement in the Title III cases of any judgment entered in a prepetition ordinary course civil action where the Debtors agreed to modify or lift the Title III Stay to allow the action to proceed to judgment by the underlying court.

	7.	This Order resolves Docket Entry No in Case No. 1/-3283.
Dated:		
		HONODA DI ELA LIDA TAMI OD CIVA DI
		HONORABLE LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

EXHIBIT 1

TITLE III STAY MODIFICATIONS AGREED TO BY THE DEBTORS FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 24, 2020

	CASE INFORMATION	MOVANT	DEBTOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MODIFICATION	STIPULATION DATE
1.	Centeno-Navarro v. López Figueroa, et. al. United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico Case No. 16-2469 Civil Rights Case	Arturo Centeno- Navarro	Commonwealth	The Title III Stay is hereby modified solely to the limited extent necessary to (i) allow the Prepetition Action to proceed to final judgment before the District Court and (ii) allow Movant to pursue execution and enforcement of any non-monetary relief that does not entail the disbursement of funds belonging to the Commonwealth or any other Title III Debtor for the implementation, enforcement, and/or execution of such non-monetary relief; provided, however, the Title III Stay shall continue to apply in all other respects to the Prepetition Action, including, but not limited to, the execution and enforcement of any judgment for money damages or any other monetary relief that entails the disbursement of funds by the Commonwealth or any other Title III debtor, and provisional remedies against the Commonwealth or any other Title III debtor.	September 29, 2020
2.	Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority v. Sucesión Serrallés Second, Inc. Civil Case No. K EF 2006-0011 Court of First Instance of Puerto Rico, San Juan Part Eminent domain	Sucesión Serrallés Second, Inc.	Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority	The Title III Stay is modified solely to the limited extent necessary (i) to enable the Prepetition Action to proceed to final judgment before the Court of First Instance, the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico; provided, however, that the Title III Stay shall continue to apply in all other respects to the Prepetition Action, including, but not limited to, the execution and enforcement of any judgment and for any claims for money damages against PREPA, if any, or any other Title III Debtor, and provisional remedies against PREPA or any other Title III Debtor and any requirement for PREPA to supplement the deposit consigned in the Prepetition Action.	October 2, 2020

	CASE INFORMATION	MOVANT	DEBTOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MODIFICATION	STIPULATION DATE
3.	Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority v. Sucesión Serrallés Second, Inc. Civil Case No. K EF 2008-0316 Court of First Instance of Puerto Rico, San Juan Part Eminent domain	Sucesión Serrallés Second, Inc.	Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority	The Title III Stay is modified solely to the limited extent necessary (i) to enable the Prepetition Action to proceed to final judgment before the Court of First Instance, the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico; provided, however, that the Title III Stay shall continue to apply in all other respects to the Prepetition Action, including, but not limited to, the execution and enforcement of any judgment and for any claims for money damages against PREPA, if any, or any other Title III Debtor, and provisional remedies against PREPA or any other Title III Debtor and any requirement for PREPA to supplement the deposit consigned in the Prepetition Action.	October 2, 2020

EXHIBIT 2

TITLE III STAY MODIFICATIONS AGREED TO BY PBA1

PREPETITION ACTION	MOVANT	DEBTOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MODIFICATION	STIPULATION DATE
AEP v. Francisca	Francisca	PBA	The Title III Stay is hereby modified solely to	November 24,
Pláceres Reyes	Pláceres		the limited extent necessary to allow the	2020
	Reyes		amount of \$67,650.00 currently consigned in	
Case No. K EF2000-			the Prepetition Action before the Prepetition	
0306 (1003)			Court to be transferred to the litigation under	
			Case No.HSCI200800638; provided, however,	
Puerto Rico Court of			the Title III Stay shall continue to apply in all	
First Instance			other respects to the Prepetition Action,	
			including, but not limited to, the execution and	
Condemnation			enforcement of any judgment and for any	
Proceeding			claims for money damages and provisional	
			remedies against PBA or any other Title III	
			Debtor, and any requirement for PBA to	
			supplement any amounts consigned to the	
			Prepetition Court.	

Capitalized terms used herein that are not otherwise defined shall have the meaning given to them in the *Debtors'* Eighteenth Omnibus Motion for Approval of Modifications to the Automatic Stay.

[&]quot;Prepetition Action" shall mean the action identified in the column, "Prepetition Action."